

Phoebe Cates might be surrounded by unspeakably mischievous creatures again, but she and husband Kevin Kline are . . .

T'S rare to find a Hollywood marriage that works, but Phoebe Cates, starring in the long-awaited sequel *Gremlins 2 The New Batch*, and Oscar-winner Kevin Kline have the formula.

"We have a rule that when one is working, the other tries not to," Phoebe tells TV WEEK.

"We've been together for five years and when Kevin was in London shooting *A Fish Called Wanda* and I was in Mississippi shooting *Heart Of Dixie*, and then *Shag*, we realised how difficult it was to have a relationship when you're separated for two or three months at a time."

The couple, who married last year, met when they auditioned for director Lawrence Kasdan for roles in the film *The Big Chill*.

"Kevin got the part and I didn't, but I guess I got a husband out of it," Phoebe, 27, says with a laugh.

As part of their arrangement, Kevin spent four months in Chicago last year "taking tennis lessons", Phoebe says with a giggle, while she starred in a theatre production of *Romeo And Juliet*.

Soon after they returned from their honeymoon, Phoebe joined Kevin in Seattle, Washington, for the three-month shoot of his film *I Love You To Death*.

Phoebe took a cameo role in the movie as a favor to their mutual friend, director Kasdan.

Then Kevin headed to Los Angeles to be with Phoebe for her

three-month shoot for *Gremlins 2 The New Batch*. He also planned to make a cameo appearance in the movie, but the scene was cut at the last minute.

"We both have our goals," Phoebe says, "but our marriage is our number one priority."

She admits that when she accepted the role in *Gremlins 2* — opening around Australia on September 20 — she wasn't expecting a huge acting challenge.

"I remained friendly with the director, Joe Dante, and Zach (Galligan, the lead actor) and had such a great time on the first one that when they asked me about the second, I wasn't thinking whether they'd do anything interesting with my part — I just wanted to be part of all that madness again!"

In *Gremlins 2*, times have changed for screen sweethearts Billy Peltzer (Galligan) and Kate Beringer (Phoebe). They have left their small home-town of Kingston Falls and are lowly employees in a giant New York enterprise run by a Manhattan magnate who looks and sounds suspiciously like real-life tycoon Donald Trump.

When a science laboratory in the same building rediscovers their Mogwai friend Gizmo, Billy and Kate try to warn everybody in the building about the rules for keeping a gremlin under control — keep him away from water and lights and never feed him after midnight!

Naturally, all the rules get broken and the pair find themselves trying to outwit the creatures, who threaten to take over the building and New York.

"This was certainly not an 'acting job', as such," Phoebe admits, "but it was a chance to work with the same people I liked from the first movie, and it was purely about enjoyment and having fun."

Six years ago, her role in *Gremlins* shot her to stardom.

Although most of her films since then — including *Heart Of Dixie*, *Shag*, *Bright Lights*, *Big City* and *Date With An Angel* — have not exactly shone at the box office, Phoebe is not bitter.

"Kevin and I are not competitive, except that I wish the roles came to me like they come to him. I have to audition for everything!"

From Jenny Cooney in Los Angeles

● Phoebe as Kate and Zach Galligan as Billy. They try to warn about the rules for keeping Gremlins under control — but the rules are broken.



● Phoebe and husband Kevin . . . togetherness is helping to make their marriage a success.



● The Gremlins are back — and this time the stakes are really high. They're trying to take over New York.



WARDING OFF THE

GREMLINS

